

CHURCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report for the Year 1919.

To the Chairman & Members of the Church Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you the following report on the health and general sanitary condition of your District during the year ended December 31st, 1919.

The area of the Township (exclusive of water) is 528 acres.

For the purposes of this report, the population for calculating the birth rate is estimated to be 6,744; and for calculating the death rate to be 6,474. The population at the census of 1911 was 6,891.

BIRTHS.

During the year, 127 births were registered in the District: 60 were boys and 67 girls. 9 boys and 7 girls were illegitimate.

This is equivalent to an annual birth rate of 18.8 per 1000, compared with 103 births and a birth rate of 15.3 in the previous year. The average birth rate for the ten years—1909-1918, was 19.1.

DEATHS.

The deaths (civilians only) totalled 96: 48 males and 48 females, producing a death rate of 14.8, compared with 95 deaths and a death rate of 15.8 in the previous year. The average death rate for the ten years—1909-1918, was 15.3.

The causes of death were as follows:—

	Number		Number
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	Influenza	9
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1
Cancer	6	Congenital Debility & Malformation	
Meningitis	1	(including Premature Birth)	9
Organic Heart Disease	9	Puerperal Fever	1
Bronchitis	13	Other defined Diseases	25
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	Causes ill-defined	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1		

Nineteen of the deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, two between 1 and 2 years, two between 2 and 5 years, four between 5 and 15 years, two between 15 and 25 years, twelve between 25 and 45 years, thirty between 45 and 65 years, and twenty-five over 65 years of age.

INFLUENZA.

During the months of February and March, influenza, of an epidemic nature, appeared in the Township. The disease at this time affected adults chiefly, and many cases of a severe type occurred. The attendance at the school was not materially affected, and I did not deem it essential in the interest of public health to advise any school closure.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The nineteen deaths under the age of 1 year give an infantile death rate of 149 per 1000 births, compared with twelve deaths and a death rate of 116 per 1000 in the previous year. The average infantile death rate during the ten years—1909-1918, was 124.

The causes of death in infants were as follows :—

	Number		Number
Convulsions	2	Premature Birth	4
Bronchitis	2	Tuberculosis	1
Pneumonia	5	Other causes	2
Debility	3		

During the year, 90% of the births have been notified under the Notifications of Births Act, 1915. This shows a further improvement on the figures of the previous year—when 80% of the births were so notified, whilst in 1917 only 50% were notified.

The attention of the public is again drawn to the fact that notification of birth is a statutory duty on the part of parents and persons in attendance at the birth, and all steps should be taken by the Council to enforce notification of births as laid down by the Act.

During the year, a Child Welfare Centre was started under the supervision of the County M. O. H., and this undoubtedly should tend to reduce the infantile mortality.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

No deaths occurred through the seven principal zymotic or epidemic diseases, viz :—smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and membranous croup, whooping cough, enteric fever, and diarrhoea.

During the year 1918, four deaths occurred, giving a death rate of 0.66.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Respiratory diseases (excluding phthisis) caused twenty-six deaths, equal to a death rate of 4.0 per 1000, compared with eighteen deaths and a death rate of 3.0 in 1918.

Thirteen deaths were due to bronchitis, twelve to pneumonia, and one to other respiratory disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary tuberculosis was responsible for three deaths, giving a death rate of 0.46 per 1000, as against ten deaths and a death rate of 1.66 in the previous year. Other tubercular diseases caused four deaths, so that the total number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was seven, & is equivalent to a death rate of 1.1 per 1000, compared with eleven deaths and a death rate of 1.82 per 1000 last year.

CANCER.

Cancer was responsible for six deaths, giving a death rate of 0.9, as against nine deaths and a death rate of 1.49 in 1918.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year, 38 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz: diphtheria 1, measles 10, ophthalmia neonatorum 3, erysipelas 2, pulmonary tuberculosis 3, other forms of tuberculosis 5, pneumonia 12, puerperal fever 1, & malaria 1. 7 cases of tuberculosis ended fatally.

In 1918, 126 cases of infectious diseases were notified.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1909, was 19. The condition of most of the houses was fairly good. The defects found were mainly due to the defective roofs and damp walls.

Action taken in 1919 :—

	Number		Number
Houses inspected	19	Houses in which defects were remedied	
„ considered unfit for habitation	0	without making closing orders	7
Representations to Authority with a		Houses put into fit state of habitation	
view to making closing orders ...	0	after making closing orders ...	0
Closing orders made	0	Houses demolished	0

The number of houses in the District is 1,629.

I do not think there has been any marked scarcity of houses during the twelve months under review.

The "Model" lodging-house has been converted into a workshop during the year.

SEWERAGE.

The sewage is efficiently dealt with at the Joint Outfall Works at Coppy Clough.

The Surveyor reports that the number of closets on the various systems and the number of covered ashpits and ashbins is as follows:—

Waste water closets	...	1498	Ashpits	...	...	791
Town's water	„	261	Ashbins	...	...	90
Pail closets	...	154	Ashtubs	...	...	190
Tanks	...	9				
		<hr/>			<hr/>	
Total	...	1922	Total	...	...	1071

349 closet stoppages were cleared by the Council's workmen.

During the year, 2303 loads of house refuse were removed to the "tip" by your employees, and 211 loads of excreta from pail closets were also collected.

The following preliminary notices were served for sundry nuisances:—

	Number		Number		
Defective drains and gullies	...	12	Damp and dilapidated buildings	12	
„ pail closets	...	26	Defective downspout and gutters	5	
„ waste water closets	...	33	„ sink waste pipes	...	2
„ ashtubs and ashbins	...	29	„ sundry defects	...	5
„ ashpits	...	22			
„ fresh water closets	...	1			
			Total	...	147

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There have been no slaughterhouses used in the District during the year.

FARMS.

The farms in the District have been inspected, special attention being paid to the condition of the cowsheds and dairies, and these have been found in a fairly satisfactory condition.

MILLS AND WORKSHOPS.

The mills and workshops have been regularly visited, and the condition of their sanitary conveniences is satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply during the year has been plentiful and of good quality.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B.,

March 23rd, 1920.

Medical Officer of Health



CHURCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

DISTRICT of CHURCH,

*For the year ended Dec. 31st,
1919.*